



# District 5 Advisory Board Minutes

Monday, April 3, 2023 • 6:30 p.m.

## Attendance

### Members Present

Trey Rios  
JV Johnston  
Ashlyn Edmisten  
Dennis Clary  
Rachel Murphy-Thomas  
Wendy Carter  
Jose Gutierrez  
Lamont Anderson  
Council Member Bryan Frye

### Staff Present

Chief Jose Ocadiz, Wichita Fire Department  
Pete Ridder, Wichita Fire Department  
Officer Perkins, Wichita Police Department  
David McGuire, Wichita Park and Recreation  
Tracie Partridge, Wichita Public Library  
Cory Buchta, Community Services  
Representative, City Manager's Office

### Members Absent

Trevor Kurth  
Nick Penner  
Sierra Scott

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## Order of Business

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by **JV Johnston**.

Oath of Office performed by the City Clerk.

Approval of April 3, 2023 Agenda: Motion PASSED 8-0-0

Approval of Minutes from March 6, 2023: Motion PASSED 8-0-0

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## Public Agenda

### 1. Scheduled Items

None

### 2. Off-Agenda Items

None

**Action Taken:** Received and filed.

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## Board Agenda

### 3. Updates, Issues, and Reports

CM Frye reported:

The Washington D.C. trip was productive. Explained the significance of the trip and what was accomplished.

Discussed information regarding the budget process and the budget forecast in the coming years.

Discussed the upcoming District 5 breakfast meeting at Westlink Library.

A DAB member asked how the new Police Chief is doing. CM Frye discussed the transition and open Deputy Chief position.

A DAB member asked about the coming budget deficit. CM Frye discussed causes.

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## New Business

### 4. FY2023-2024 Funding; CDBG, HOME, ESG

Logan Bradshaw, Housing and Community Services, presented information regarding funding priorities for the 2023-24 Fifth Year Annual Action Plan. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) considers the City of Wichita to be an entitlement city and as such, Wichita receives annual allocations of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. In order to receive these funds the City is required to prepare a Consolidated Plan every five years. In addition, the City is required to submit an Annual Action Plan which addresses the priorities identified in the Consolidated Plan.

Q (DAB): Are these non-profits applying for grants? Are you selecting them based on certain criteria?

A: That comes back to the grants review committee. We use to do that every year, but that was a lot. They have to go to a competitive request for proposals process and are vetted. They understood it is a 2-year funding cycle.

Q (DAB): Do these agencies know where to look?

A: Yes, these agencies know where to look for grants. They come and present to the committee. We also share information with the non-profit chamber?

Q (CM Frye): Have we kept our allocation for demo the same?

A: We haven't made any allocations in the last 2 years because they were still using prior year funds. They've been working to streamline that.

Q (CM Frye): Is there any increase in summer youth employment?

A: We're flat on that.

C DAB: I did this (Grants Review Committee) last year and it was a great and informative experience.

Q (CM Frye): Are you needing us to select someone tonight?

A: No, it will be a 2-year process. We'll need an appointment next year.

C (DAB): I would like to do it next year.

**Action Taken:** Provided feedback.

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## Staff Reports

### 5. Wichita Fire Department Report

Chief Jose Ocadiz reported:

0 fires in D5. 3<sup>rd</sup> fatality in Wichita from fire this year. In D2 from careless smoking.

April Burn Ban, no recreational fires. Hi winds and dry weather creates dangerous wild fire conditions.

### 6. Wichita Police Department Report

Officer Perkins reported:

199 Beat. Saturday April 29 fentanyl awareness event. 2p-3:30p at Towne West. Booth and free movie. Touch a truck event. Community Policing out west has been hitting west Kellogg hotels hard.

All of Patrol West crime stats: rapes down 50%, robbery and larceny down 50%, agg assaults up 18% (4 are DV related) 5 are fire arm displayed road rage incident. Residential burglary up 88% (two of them were in District 5).

Q (DAB): Do you ever see those stats ebb and flow with the seasons?

Yes, crime goes down in winter. Summer time we have youth crime. We do see that.

### 7. Park and Recreation Department Report

David McGuire reported:

Pickle ball courts at Buffalo Park has been approved.

Park maintenance starting soon. Mowing and trash pick up.

Pool season coming soon. Putting up the shade structures and getting splash pads ready.

Summer classes getting ready to start soon.

Easter egg hunt had 1,200 kids.

Q (DAB): At Buffalo Park taking away tennis?

A: Taking away 1 tennis court and adding 2 pickle ball.

### 8. Wichita Public Library Report

Tracie Partridge reported:

If you need to apply for a passport for summer travel, your Wichita Public Library has you covered. You can process your passport application at the Alford Branch (3447 S. Meridian) and Evergreen Community

Center and Library (2601 N. Arkansas). To book your appointment and learn more, visit [www.wichitalibrary.org/passports](http://www.wichitalibrary.org/passports).

The Spring Gardening Series is back! We have a great multi-week program for you in partnership with K-State Research and Extension's Master Gardeners program. The weekly programs meet Tuesday evenings at the Alford Branch (3447 S. Meridian) and on Thursday evenings on Zoom. Visit [www.wichitalibrary.org/gardening](http://www.wichitalibrary.org/gardening) to register. Here's the lineup:

- April 11 & 13: Homegrown Tomatoes
- April 18 & 20: Gardening for All Abilities: Accessible Gardening
- April 25 & 27: Loving the Bees Means Nurturing All the Pollinators
- May 2 & 4: Gardening with Nature: Native Plants and Grasses

As part of this year's Big Read, we are thrilled to bring author Roz Chast to Wichita at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 15 at the Wichita State University Metroplex (5015 E. 29th St.). She is the author of this year's Big Read book, *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?*, and an artist for *The New Yorker*. Chast will share her work as a cartoonist and discuss her work as an author.

Wichita Public Library, Wichita Literacy Coalition and several community partners have created and installed 26 Little Free Libraries throughout City Council District III – each one decorated after a letter of the alphabet. The Little Free Libraries are part of a project to help kids in low literacy areas have better access to books, tools and resources to explore reading at home. Developing reading skills is important for long-term success of residents, both in school and beyond. The 26 Little Free Libraries are decorated for each letter of the alphabet, creating a space where residents can easily access free books and information. An audio component created by Wichita State University's Engineering students pronounce letters when the door opens. The Library and community partners will provide books for early learners and parents; everyone is welcome to use the Little Free Libraries and to share books forward.

**Action Taken:** Received and filed.

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## New Business

### 9. Fireworks Ordinance Proposal

Wichita Fire Department Staff will present information regarding proposed changes to the fireworks ordinance. In November of 2022, a fireworks committee was assembled to review historical challenges related to fireworks and explore possible solutions. On February 28th, 2023, the Wichita Fire Department presented a two-phased approach to the Wichita City Council outlining legalization of consumer aerial fireworks. Considerations included sales, possession, and display within the city.

Q (DAB): Is this more restrictive or less restrictive?

A: Less restrictive. We're allowing the aerals greater than 6 feet.

Is there a permit fee today?

A: No, now everything is under 6 foot or below.

So this year to shoot fireworks at your home, you would need a permit?

A: Correct.

Q (DAB): Most people know how to shoot off fireworks, most people will be upset and they'll throw the piece of paper away. Is this a test year? What's the long term?

A: The whole program is a test. This is brand new for us. I don't even know when the 6 foot ordinance took effect. Overall, we will see how this goes. Our expectation is no more fires. It's already happening in the City. The bigger picture is that we join what's happening already and try to educate proper disposal and safety measures.

Q (DAB): If you're driving through neighborhoods are you going to be randomly stopping and seeing if people have a permit?

A: Our goal is to try and eliminate enforcement. Permit side, we'll look at first couple of days there should be no aerals. Everything is up for grabs. Just ideas. We're here to get your suggestions.

Q (DAB): I'm trying to get to the why. Is this really about efficient use of resources?

A: We're not decreasing the problem no matter how many citations we issue.

Q (DAB): Do you have to show the permit before purchasing fireworks?

A: It's more like the honor system, like the garage sale permit.

Q (DAB): Are you going to get information to HOAs and fireworks tents about the permits?

A: There will be a mass public service announcement. As soon as this goes through, you'll see it everywhere.

Q (Public Charles Berger or Krueger): I know there was a police officer killed dismantling a mortar a long time ago. If you go down Parkdale south. There was a guy who put fireworks in a plastic container next to a garage. Burned down my corvette. There's a pretty good display in my area. How do you legislate stupid?

C (DAB): So if the rules are relaxing, the consequences are increasing.

C (CM Frye): 8 years on council and 8 years on DAB before that. Fireworks have always been an issue out west because people can buy them just outside of the city limits. This was something the City is exploring to deal with the issues caused by fireworks. The fines are way too low. Limit the window to fewer days. Try to do a better job of educating. Require the permit. Will people read it? Maybe not, but maybe they will. Also trying to reduce the demand on police and fire. The permits we are better able to identify where the hot spots are going to be. This is a trial. This is where we'll need feedback. We need to hear from folks.

Q (DAB): Did you address the time of day? 10am to midnight is a little mind boggling. I see Next Door and hear it all around. My proposal would be 10am to midnight on the 4<sup>th</sup>, but end at 10p leading up to that.

A: We have discussed time frame. We are in line with the state statute. Still looking at that though. From 27<sup>th</sup> until the 1<sup>st</sup>, it's pretty quiet late at night. This year, the 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the most active night. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> might be busy too because it's on the weekend. Cost of fireworks aren't cheap, so people haven't been shooting a bunch every night.

Q (Public): State is 27<sup>th</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup>, what is the 1<sup>st</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup>?

A: When City would allow aerals.

C (DAB): Seems like a big marketing campaign. If you start posting fines, that will get attention.

A: If you don't have a permit and you shoot, you'll get that \$1,000 fine.

C (DAB): I worked a fireworks stand, and I think we handed out fliers. If it saves 1 or 2, that's still good.

C (DAB): I come from an area where it's Wild West. If permits would help reduce toll on fire and PD, then I think it's a benefit for everyone. I'm a fan of eliminating 6 foot rule. I like this process taking place. I like the current hours. I would like to extend the hours. I appreciate the dialogue. Bringing the sales into the City is a no brainer. We're not getting that money, Maize and Andover are. I think it would be beneficial to the City.

A: We don't know how much revenue that will increase. We still have to work through that as well.

A: I think this year our 3 vendors will continue to come in with a couple more additional. If we continue with Phase II, we'll get bigger vendors.

A: We also know groups use this as a fundraiser, so we're sensitive to that too.

C (DAB): I really like the phased approach.

Q (DAB): When will Council vote on this?

A: May.

**Action Taken:** Provided feedback.

## 10. CON2023-00003

**The Metropolitan Area Planning Department** will present this case for consideration by the District Advisory Board. Bryan Nguyen (Applicant)/Dustin Marsh (Agent) is requesting a Conditional Use to allow Vehicle and Equipment Sales, Outdoor on property zoned LC Limited Commercial District. The property is addressed as 7136 West Central Avenue, which is generally located on the northeast corner of West Central Avenue and North Ridge Road. It is currently developed with a vacant gas station/convenience store and detached car wash.

I have received no comments.

C (DAB): Barely skims into places for people. Once you get beyond big ditch, seems like it could work. Intersection is sort of getting a resurgence. I think until the area goes through revitalization, you won't get any requests that aren't auto-centric. I don't see why something like this isn't in conformance. 200ft within Places for People plan.

C (DAB): This lot is an eyesore now.

C (Agent): Dave Wills – Will be re-paving and will refurbish car wash. No auto repair. This will be an auxiliary place out West. Main place is out east. Canopy will get redone. Will redo the whole car wash building. Providing traditional landscaping buffering on the front side. Nothing required on the north. I'm sure we'll get requirements on lighting.

Q (DAB): What about the tanks in the ground?

A: They're gone.

C (DAB): A couple of years ago we had a zoning case similar to this. He came in and didn't know what he wanted to do. This is an extensive investment. That was adjacent to SF-5. This is different.

C (DAB): Looks like it would be a nice improvement on that corner.

C (Public): Russel Fox 605 N Westlink – Trey’s comment is on point. Central is strobed. No realistic possibility it will be anything other than auto-centric. That said, Places for People is something the City has embraced. If you say it’s implausible here, then you could say it about any location in Wichita.

Q (DAB): Isn’t there a rule now limiting drives within so far of an intersection?

C (DAB): They are closing 2 of the 4 drive ways.

Q (DAB): Places for People, that’s a pretty even radius right? Not etched around landmarks?

**Action Taken:** Motion to **APPROVE** the case as presented made by Rachel Murphy-Thomas. Seconded by Wendy Carter. **MOTION PASSED** 6-2-0

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## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **8:20** p.m. The next District 5 Advisory Board meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 1, 2023.

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## Guests

Russell Fox  
Charles Krueger

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Respectfully submitted,  
Cory Buchta, Community Services Representative, District 5